GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1628
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
LIONS IN GIR FOREST
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lions in the Gir Forest during each of the last two years alongwith the number of lions killed during each of these years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to save the tigers in the Gir Forest?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the information received from the State Government,the population of Asiatic lion is estimated as 359 + 10 in Brihat Gir region of Gujarat (based on the population estimation carried out in April 2005).The details of lion died during last two years are as under:

Year	Natural Death	Accident	Electrocution	Poaching	Falling in Well	Total
2006	17	0	0	1	6	24
2007	33	1	6	8	7	55

(b) There are no tigers in Gir Forests.However, the actions taken by the Central Government for the conservation of wildlife including lions are as follows:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

3. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz.−Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries to State/UT Governments for the conservation and protection of wildlife including lions and its habitats.In addition,the Government of Gujarat has taken the following measures to save wildlife including lions in the Gir Forests:

1. Gir forests and the habitat of lions have been identified as Greater Gir area with high priority for conservation.

2. Additional manpower is deployed for protection in Greater Gir Area.

3. Mobility of staff for protection has been increased by providing 100 Motor Cycles and 10 four wheel vehicles.

4. Additional wireless and walkie-talkie equipments are provided to the field staff and check posts for better communication.

5. Field staff is equipped with additional fire arms.

6. Inter-departmental co-ordination is strengthened at various levels.

7. Support of local residents is solicited in forest and wildlife protection activities.

8. Patrolling and monitoring has been intensified in vulnerable areas.